

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strike through~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please AMEND claims 1-4 and 6-7 in accordance with the following:

1. (Currently Amended) A laying device for laying a line element connected to a tool attached to a forward end of a robot arm, said robot arm provided at the forward end thereof with a rotation shaft member rotatable about a rotation axis thereof, said rotation shaft member having a hollow portion formed along the rotation axis, and a tool mount surface, formed at the forward end of said rotation shaft member, for the tool to be mounted thereon,

wherein said laying device comprises a ~~relaying means~~straight relay connector for relaying an arm side section of the line element, extending through said hollow portion out of a lead-out opening formed on a side of said rotation shaft member, to a tool side section of the line element extending from the tool, so that a direction in which said ~~relaying means~~straight relay connector connects the line element is substantially parallel to said tool mount surface and forms an angle other than 0° with regard to a radial direction perpendicular to the rotation axis.

2. (Currently Amended) The device according to claim 1, wherein said ~~relaying means~~straight relay connector is provided in the vicinity of said lead-out opening.

3. (Currently Amended) The device according to claim 1, comprising a plurality of pairs of lead-out openings and associated ~~relaying means~~straight relay connectors.

4. (Currently Amended) The device according to claim 2, comprising a plurality of pairs of lead-out openings and associated ~~relaying means~~straight relay connectors.

5. (Withdrawn) The device according to claim 1, wherein said angle is 90°.

6. (Withdrawn) (Currently Amended) The device according to claim 1, comprising a plurality of ~~relaying means~~straight relay connectors arranged around the rotation axis.

7. (Currently Amended) The device according to claim 1, comprising ~~relaying means~~straight relay connectors arranged side by side in the direction of the rotation axis.

8. (Withdrawn) The device according to claim 1, further comprising seal means for sealing a gap between the lead-out opening and a portion of the line element which passes through the lead-out opening.